

"When I visited Kentucky, I found it so far to exceed my expectations . . . that I concluded it was a pity that the world had not adequate information of it."

John Filson, 1784

Kentucky in 1790

In addition to elk, bison, mountain lion, and bear, many birds were found in Kentucky that are no longer here. John James Audubon traveled extensively throughout the state in the early 1800s painting birds, some that are now extinct. Passenger pigeons, hunted for food, darkened the skies when they flew over in flocks sometimes containing more than a million birds. Carolina parakeets and passenger pigeons had both completely disappeared by the early 1900s.



Kentucky's many springs were the sites of the earliest settlements. This photo is of the spring at Lynn Station in Jefferson County, occupied by some of Kentucky's earliest pioneers in the 1700s.



The area in this photo is typical of the savanna landscape that was found throughout the central Bluegrass Region. This remnant savanna is Griffith Woods, a Registered Natural Area in Harrison County.

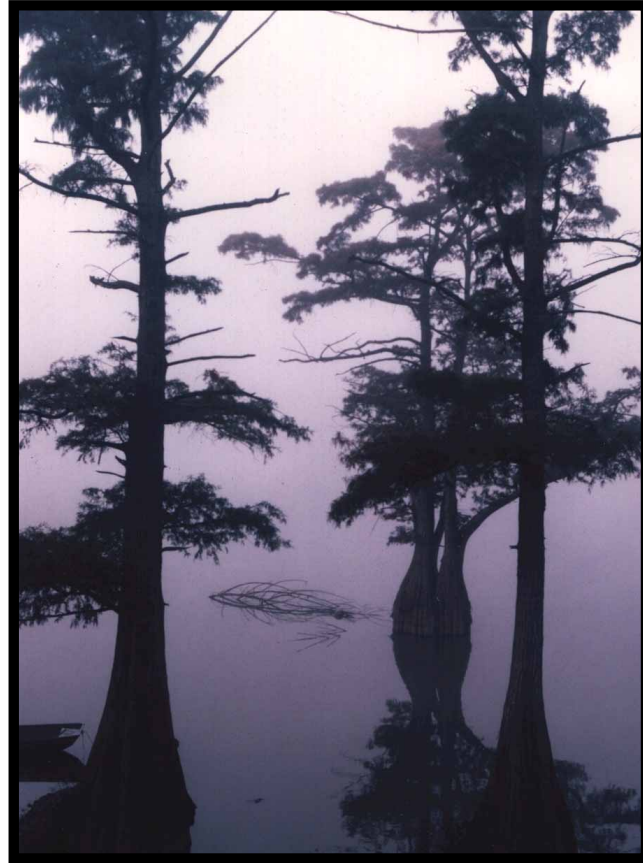


This photo shows Polkville Knob Lick, a famous salt lick that is found on maps of the 1700s.

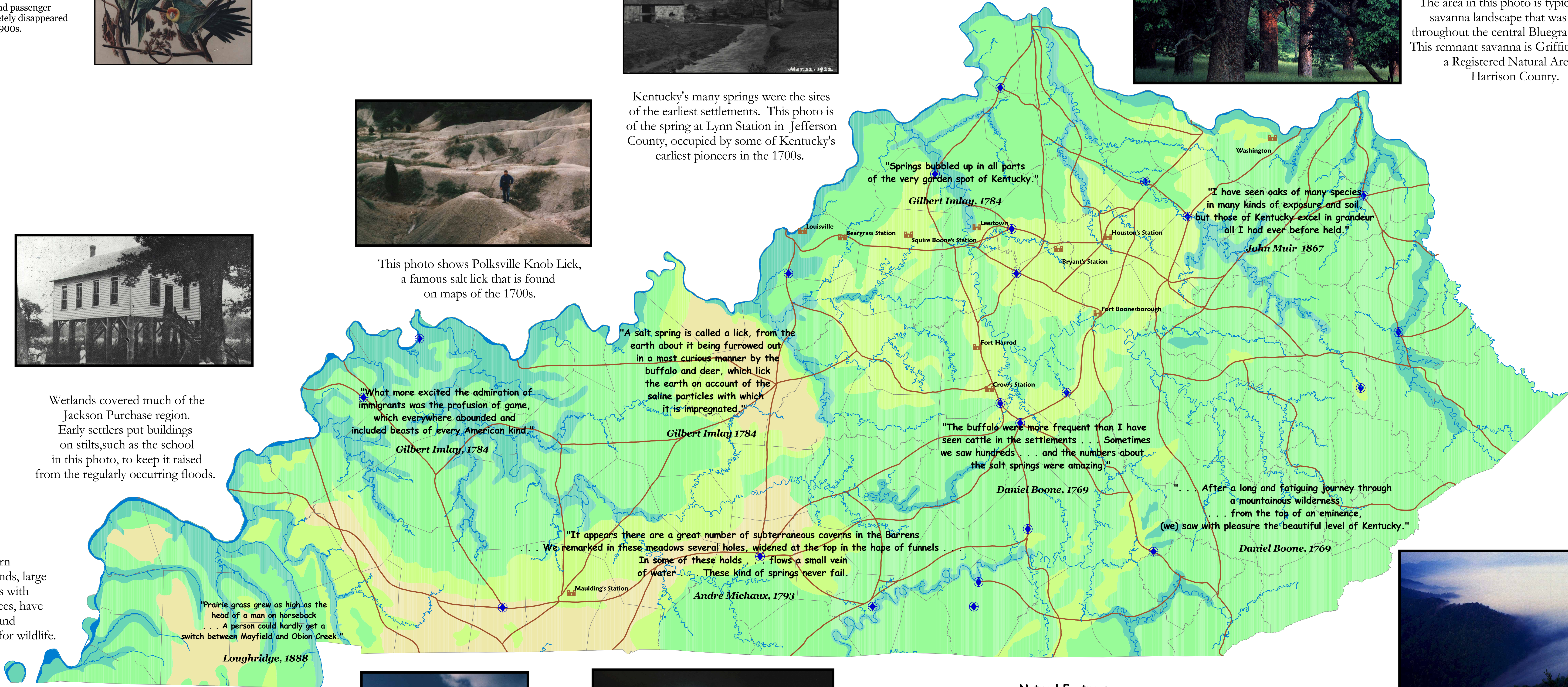


Wetlands covered much of the Jackson Purchase region. Early settlers put buildings on stilts, such as the school in this photo, to keep it raised from the regularly occurring floods.

Some of Western Kentucky's best wetlands, large bayous and swamps with cypress and tupelo trees, have been preserved and provide needed habitat for wildlife.



The "Great Barrens" was the name given to Kentucky's vast prairie area, where tall grasses and wildflowers covered the landscape. A story told of the Lee family in Calloway County describes young Johnathan Lee on horseback sent to round up stray cattle, who would become lost in the grasses that were over his head - even on horseback!



- Natural Features**
- Tall Grass Prairie (often called "The Barrens")
 - Savannah (grasslands and canebrakes with scattered trees)
 - Forest
 - Wetlands and Floodplains
 - Rivers and Streams
- Bison and Native American Trails
County (modern boundaries)
Forts and Stations
Major Lick, Springs or Stamping Ground
Rivers and Streams

